AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising a composite oxide having a perovskite structure represented by the general formula (1):

$$ABRhO_3 \quad (1)$$

wherein A represents at least one element selected from rare-earth elements essentially including one or more rare-earth elements each having a valence of 3 as the only valence and arbitrarily including Ce and/or Pr; and B represents at least one element selected from transition elements excluding Co, Rh and the rare-earth elements, and Al.

2. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein, in the general formula (1), A represents at least one element selected from only rare-earth elements each having a valence of 3 as the only valence.

3. (Original) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising a composite oxide having a perovskite structure represented by the general formula (2):

$$A_{1-x}A'_xB_{1-z}Rh_zO_3 \quad (2)$$

wherein A represents at least one element selected from La, Nd, and Y; A' represents Ce and/or Pr; B represents at least one element selected from Fe, Mn, and Al; x is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation: $0 \leq x < 0.5$; and z is an atomic ratio satisfying the following relation: $0 < z \leq 0.8$.

4. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 3, wherein, in the general formula (2), B essentially includes at least Fe or Al and arbitrarily includes Mn; and x is 0.

5. (Original) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst according to claim 1, wherein Pt is further supported.

6. (New) A catalyst composition comprising a composite oxide having a perovskite structure represented by the general formula (1) :

ABRhO3 (1)

wherein A represents at least one element selected from rare-earth elements essentially including one or more rare-earth elements each having a valence of 3 as the only valence and arbitrarily including Ce and/or Pr; and B represents at least one element selected from transition elements excluding Co, Rh and the rare-earth elements, and A1.